

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169642

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PINS, CVIS, TU, BU

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR REFUGEE STATUS

REF: (A) ISTANBUL 2529, (B) ISTANBUL 2530, (C) ANKARA 5199
(D) SOFIA 1409

1. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT VULKOV WAS APPARENTLY REPATRIATED TO BULGARIA ON PREVIOUS OCCASION, AND IN VIEW OF PROBABLE JEOPARDY HE AND PERHAPS PUNCHEV WOULD FACE IN BULGARIAN HANDS (REF D), WE BELIEVE CONGEN AND EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK ASSURANCES FROM APPROPRIATE TURKISH AUTHORITIES THAT THEY WILL BE PLACED IN INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE STREAM AND NOT RPT NOT BE REPATRIATED. UPON RECEIPT OF APPROPRIATE TURKISH ASSURANCES, VULKOV AND PUNCHEV SHOULD BE PERSUADED TO TURN THEMSELVES IN TO ISTANBUL REFUGEE CENTER.

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2. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT UNHCR MAY BE ABLE TO ASSIST IN RESETTLEMENT OUTSIDE TURKEY IF THAT IS ONLY PRACTICABLE COURSE. ACCORDINGLY, US MISSION GENEVA SHOULD APPRISE UNHCR OF ISTANBUL SITUATION (REFTELS HAVE BEEN REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO) AND SEEK THEIR ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT FORCIBLE REPATRIATION AND TO ARRANGE FOR THIRD COUNTRY

RESETTLEMENT. VULKOV AND PUNCHEV SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT THEY SHOULD SEEK HCR AID. ALSO, EMBASSY ANKARA IS REQUESTED TO INFORM UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE IN ANKARA OF DEVELOPMENTS AND TO DETERMINE HOW HE CAN BEST BE INVOLVED IN ASSISTING VULKOV AND PUNCHEV.

3. IN TAKING ABOVE ACTIONS, WE DO NOT OF COURSE WISH TO ASSUME DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR VULKOV AND PUNCHEV AND WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THEIR RESETTLEMENT OUTSIDE TURKEY. (HOWEVER, SEE PARA 4 BELOW.) WE BELIEVE THAT UNHCR IS APPROPRIATE CHANNEL FOR HANDLING THIS AFFAIR AND ALL ADDRESSEES SHOULD AS APPROPRIATE MAKE CLEAR THAT USG WISHES ONLY TO ACTIVATE INTERNATIONAL RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS UNDER HCR AUSPICES, AT SAME TIME BEING REASONABLY ASSURED THAT VULKOV AND PUNCHEV WILL NOT BE FORCIBLY REPATRIATED TO BULGARIA. INsofar AS POSSIBLE, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO ESCALATE THIS ISSUE TO HIGH GOVT POLITICAL LEVEL AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT VULKOV AND PUNCHEV CAN BE ACCOMMODATED ROUTINELY AS REFUGEES BY APPROPRIATE TURKISH AUTHORITIES AND HCR.

4. FYI. AS BULGARIANS, IT APPEARS THAT SUBJECTS MAY QUALIFY TO APPLY FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY INTO US UNDER SECTION 203(A)(7) OF THE INA. HOWEVER, THEY WOULD HAVE TO PROCEED TO A PORT WHERE INS OFFICERS PROCESS CONDITIONAL ENTRY APPLICATIONS, SUCH AS ATHENS, ROME, PARIS, FRANKFURT, VIENNA OR BRUSSELS. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF INITIATING PRELIMINARY NAME CHECKS. IF SUBJECTS DESIRE TO APPLY FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY, THEY WILL NEED VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND VISAS FOR ENTRY INTO APPROPRIATE COUNTRY FOR PROCESSING. IT SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND THAT ANY ONWARD REFERRAL TO CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROCESSING PORT DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT SUCH AN APPLICATION WILL BE APPROVED. UNHCR CAN BE CONFIDENTIAL

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EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN PROVIDING TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION AND OBTAINING NECESSARY ENTRY VISAS. WE WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED OF RESULTS OF NAME CHECKS. END FYI.

5. IN FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE ON THIS CASE, PLEASE INCLUDE USMISSION GENEVA AS ADDRESSEE.

KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, MACFARLANE.

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To: ANKARA GENEVA
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